

FCC Commission Members:

We are writing to express our strong objections to a further relaxation of rules governing ownership of media within any given service area. The public interest is not served by the consolidation of media ownership in the hands of a few corporate owners.

This action flies in the face of Chairman Michael Powell's own statement: "Media ownership rules are intended to protect and advance the cherished values of diversity, localism and competition." These cherished values are imperiled by allowing public information sources to be further dominated by media corporations such as Clear Channel Media, Viacom, Disney, General Electric, Rupert Murdoch, and a few others.

We are already suffering a paucity of informative debate on serious political issues and egregious neglect of the "public interest programming" supposedly required of the organizations given free licenses to use the public airwaves. Our democracy requires an informed public exposed to a broad spectrum of debate and views on issues of the day. The action contemplated will serve to narrow the debate and disengage media owners from the localities they serve.

We respectfully urge you to reconsider this action

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